

TrendSpotter

Edited by Suzanne D'Amato

[SHOPPER]



BY SYBBA SMITH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Carmen Lopez's Current Boutique is dedicated to "modern consignment" but also sells new pieces.



Grommited Drawstring Handbag

Don't miss Lopez's smallish but stylish collection of reasonably priced new clothes, jewelry and handbags, including this no-name copper-colored tote (\$36.50).

SECONDHAND, BUT FIRST-RATE

» Carmen Lopez has shopped her fair share of secondhand stores, but much of the time she found the shops poorly organized, the clothes damaged or frumpy.

"A lot of the time when you think about consignment shops, you think about dated clothing," she says.

But the ethos of shopping secondhand — being able to score stylish clothes for a song — still appealed to her. So Lopez, 28, decided to open **Current Boutique**, Clarendon's three-month-old stop for what she calls "modern consignment."

"I wanted something for the everyday female: someone who works 9 to 5 but goes out for cocktails on the weekends," she says. "Not everyone wants to rummage through everything."

Lopez accepts used clothes and accessories from a variety of consigners. Many of the pieces still have their tags attached — and often, those items come from Lopez's regular consigners, such as the one who scours closeout sales for great deals, or the one who buys shoes online but doesn't have time to return the pairs that don't fit.

Of course, not every item is Diane von Furstenberg; basic H&M tops and Ann Taylor skirts abound. But there are lots of steals, whether it's shoes (seemingly unworn Cynthia Rowley pumps), boutique-brand outfits (an adorable Tocco sundress with original Urban Chic tags) or formal dresses (three still-tagged Badgley Mischka mini-dresses).

And that's where Current's genius lies: Good prices, but you won't have to dig past Grandma's musty cardigans to find your Gucci.

— Michelle Thomas

The following items can be found at Current Boutique (2529 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, 703-528-3079, www.currentboutique.com).

Mix » Nouveau Dress

A feminine shape and a preppy polka-dot pattern make this cotton dress (\$21.50) a winner for summer.



« Nanette Lepore Blazer

This awning-striped jacket (\$78.50) has a fun garden-party-meets-the-workplace vibe.

